

III. REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 27, 31, and 33 are amended and claim 29 is cancelled. Claims 23-34 are submitted for further consideration.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 23-26 and 28-34 stand rejected under 35USC103(a) on the basis of the combined disclosures of the Admitted Prior Art (APA) and the cited reference Loh, U.S. Patent No. 6,483,698 and further in view of the cited reference Fullerton, U.S. Patent No. 6,108,200. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejection in view of the following remarks.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to included the locking element of canceled claim 29. Claim 27 is amended to conform to the Examiner's statement of Allowable Subject Matter and accordingly is now in allowable form. Claims 31 and 33 are amended to clearly indicated that the accessory is supported on the electronic device by the support element.

The Office Action and Responsive Remarks

As indicated above, claims 23-26 and 28-34 stand rejected under 35USC103(a) on the basis of the combined disclosures of the Admitted Prior Art (APA) and the cited reference Loh, U.S. Patent No. 6,483,698 and further in view of the cited reference Fullerton. This rejection is traversed on the following grounds:

The combined teaching of the APA, Loh, and Fullerton does not render claims 23-26 and 28-34 obvious because it fails to teach or otherwise suggest each and every limitation of the claims. It is well settled that in order to establish a prima facie case for obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior

art, without reference to the disclosure of this application. (MPEP Section 2142) ***In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). See MPEP § 2143 - § 2143.03 for decisions pertinent to each of these criteria."**

The Examiner has indicated that the admitted prior art (APA) fails to disclose or imply a support element. The support element of this application is described in claim 23, as follows:

"a support element mounted on one of said electronic device or said accessory for supporting the accessory on the electronic device when it is in operational connection to the electronic device, through the first and second connectors, and wherein the support element further comprises a locking element for securing the accessory to the support element."

The Examiner has cited the reference Loh, as teaching an electronic device 10 having an accessory connector 16 for connecting accessory 20 and further disclosing a support element 14 for the accessory when it is connected to the accessory connector. The reference Loh discloses a cradle 10 that is adapted to receive a PDA and support the PDA on a flat surface. The cradle 10 includes connection 16 for power and data. The cradle 10 is adapted to receive a PDA and support the PDA on a desk, table or the like. The cradle, however is a stand alone device for supporting a PDA. The PDA may be considered as analogous to the electronic device of the claims of this application. There is no teaching of an accessory connector on the electronic device. Therefore, there can be no teaching that a support element can be associated with an accessory connector to support the accessory when the accessory is connected to the electronic device. Contrary to the combined disclosure of the cited references, the support element of the subject application is attached to an electronic device or the accessory for the purpose of supporting the accessory when it is connected to the electronic device **on the electronic device**. According to the claims, the support element of this

application does not support the electronic device, as in the cited reference Loh, but it is the accessory that is supported on the electronic device.

In further support of the rejection, the Examiner has cited the reference Fullerton. The disclosure of Fullerton teaches that an electronic device, i.e. a PDA, may be supported on a keyboard for use with the keyboard. Similarly to the disclosure of Loh, there is no teaching of an accessory connection for the PDA. The combined teaching of Loh and Fullerton fails to disclose or imply a support element for supporting an accessory on an electronic device as required by the claims.

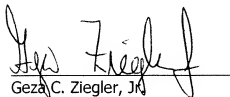
The rejection, with respect to claim 23, is further traversed on the basis that there is no teaching in the combined disclosure of the APA, Loh, and Fullerton that a locking element may be provided to secure the accessory to the support element, as required by claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Accordingly, the combined teaching fails to disclose or suggest the claimed features of independent claims 23,31 and 33 as indicated above. These grounds apply equally to the rejected dependent claims, all of which, by dependency, have the limitations described in the independent claims. None of the cited references remedy the admitted deficiencies of the APA.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,



Geza C. Ziegler, Jr.

Reg. No. 44,004

4 Jan 2007
Date

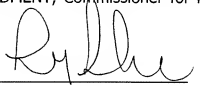
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